An inter-ministerial consultation process has since been initiated to make an assessment regarding amounts to be contributed by the various Ministries to the Central Pool during the previous four financial years.

(b) to (d) There is no formal proposal to this effect. However, Chief Minister, Assam in his D.O. letter dated March 8, 2002 has intimated that the Public Works Department, Assam was proposing to form a Society with the Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads) heading the society and the funds provided will come under Direct Payment System as was prevailing in the ARIASP (World Bank) works.

Formulation of National Slum Policy

*679. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had convened a meeting of Chief Ministers and Housing and Urban Development Ministers of all States for formulation of the National Slum Policy;

(b) if so, the number of Chief Ministers attended the meeting;

(c) the main issues discussed therein;

(d) whether any formulation of the National Slum Policy was considered; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Clearance of medical claims

*680. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of medical reimbursement claims of Government pensioners received in his Ministry under the CGHS relating to the period 1st January, 2002 to 31st March, 2002 could not be cleared by 31st March, 2002;

(b) the number of claims and amount, out of the above, remaining unpaid as on date and the reasons why the reimbursement has not been sanctioned/ paid;

(c) by when the claims will be settled; and

(d) what is the minimum time taken by the Ministry to settle the claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The list of medical reimbursement claims of Government pensioners which could not be cleared by 31st March, 2002 in respect of each of the CGHS covered cities is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 195, Annexure No. 46]

The delay in settlement of medical claims of Government pensioners by the CGHS is primarily due to non-availability of funds during the months of February and March *i.e.* at the end of the financial year.

(c) Subject to the claims pending as on 31.3.2002 being complete in all respects, they would be cleared within a month's time.

(d) Except in cases where special approvals have to be obtained for some medical claims, it normally takes about four to six weeks for the CGHS to settle the medical claims of the Government pensioners provided the pensioners have furnished all the required documents and subject to the condition that necessary funds are available with the CGHS.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Construction of roads in NE States

4798. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the list of roads under construction by the North Eastern Council in the North East, State-wise;

(b) the number of on-going construction of roads with schedule date/ time for completion; and

(c) the number of new roads approved and to be taken up soon?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) As on 24.4.02 there are 32 road schemes of